



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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OCT 21 2011

Shellie Chard-McClary, Division Director
Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Dear Ms. Chard-McClary:

I would like to thank you and your staff for taking the time to meet with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 on Thursday, September 15, 2011, to discuss the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Public Water System Supervision Program (PWSS). We appreciate the discussion on the challenges ODEQ is encountering regarding workload, resource allocations, and funding. The purpose of this letter is to summarize our discussion and action items.

EPA Region 6, in coordination with EPA Headquarters, conducted a file review of the ODEQ PWSS program in late summer 2011. EPA Headquarters will be issuing the final report containing the areas of concern in the near future. While the report is being finalized, we agreed that EPA Region 6 staff will start work on an evaluation of ODEQ's current Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) setup. My staff plans to schedule a meeting with the ODEQ compliance tracking group to develop an action plan that will include monthly visits and/or phone calls and Video Teleconference (VTC) meetings to investigate each area of concern, prioritize issues and determine possible solutions.

EPA Region 6 has been implementing the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR). We agreed that EPA staff and ODEQ staff will work on clarifying roles and responsibility for both Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule transition and Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule implementation.

We appreciate ODEQ sharing information regarding current funding levels for the PWSS program and we recognize the need for the PWSS program to gain the needed resources necessary to run an effective program. If you need any assistance from us in your efforts for the passage of the proposed fee increase, please let us know.

Again, I thank you for meeting with me and my staff and I look forward to continuing such collaborative efforts. Please contact Stacey Dwyer, Associate Director for the Source Water Protection Branch (214-665-6729), if you have any questions or concerns with the summary I have provided in this letter.

Sincerely,

William K. Honker
Acting Director
Water Quality Protection Division

cc Michele Welsh, ODEQ
Kay Coffey, ODEQ